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OGC/GHK:est  
25 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chiefs, Area Divisions  
Chief, PP

SUBJECT : Questionnaire on Status of Commercial Proprietary  
Projects

1. There is attached hereto for your action a questionnaire on the status of commercial proprietary projects within your area jurisdiction. This questionnaire is propounded at the direction of the Director of Central Intelligence as an initial step in the review of the nature and extent of the Agency's use of proprietary cover mechanisms. The answers to this questionnaire will in part form the basis for a report to a three-man board composed of the Inspector General, Deputy Director (Administration) and Deputy Director (Plans), who, in turn, acting upon this report, will make recommendations to the Director of Central Intelligence for final action concerning the continuation, modification or liquidation of individual proprietary mechanisms.

2. As used in the preceding paragraph, the term "commercial proprietary project" shall be considered to include those proprietary projects which engage or appear to engage in bona fide business activity of a self-supporting or profit making nature. This does not include foundations or other activities of an eleemosynary type.

3. The answers which you furnish to the attached questionnaire will be intensively examined by a task force under my direction. Where it is felt that additional or amplifying information would be necessary or desirable, further written inquiries will be addressed to you or oral discussions with you or your representatives will be arranged.

4. You are requested to furnish your answers to the attached questionnaire by September 30, 1953.